

VZCZCXRO8058  
OO RUEHAG RUEHRN RUEHROV  
DE RUEHKO #0517 0580541  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 270541Z FEB 08  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2058  
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHSS/OECD POSTS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 1891  
RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY 0280  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 2141  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 7954  
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY 0134  
RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA PRIORITY 6320  
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA PRIORITY 8715  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE PRIORITY 9987  
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO PRIORITY 6925  
RHMFISS/USFJ PRIORITY  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/COMUSKOREA SEOUL KOR PRIORITY  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 8541  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 000517

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

MOSCOW PASS VLADIVOSTOK  
HELSINKI PASS ST PETERSBURG  
VIENNA PASS OSCE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/27/2016

TAGS: [PREL](#) [JA](#) [RU](#)

SUBJECT: JAPAN TO MONITOR RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Classified By: Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer. Reasons 1.4 (B) (D)

11. (C) Japanese observers will monitor the March 2 Russian presidential election at the invitation of the Russian Central Election Commission (CEC), Japanese Foreign Ministry and Russian Embassy diplomats informed Embassy Tokyo on February 27. The three-member delegation, consisting of officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and one academic, will visit Russia from Feb. 28 to March 4. Russia Division Principal Deputy Director Kotaro Otsuki said the team will stay in Moscow, but have plans to visit a "suburban area." Asked why the CEC would invite Tokyo to observe the contest, Otsuki said that Russian officials praised a Japanese team that monitored the 2007 Duma election.

12. (C) Russian Embassy First Secretary Yurii Yuriev confirmed the CEC invitation, but noted that the team actually departed for Russia in mid-February. Yuriev did not know where the delegation would be stationed, but added that in accordance with "the principles of democracy which exist in my country, they can monitor anywhere they want."

13. (U) Foreign Minister Masahiko Koumura told reporters on February 26 that the observers would monitor the election campaigns, voting and ballot counting to ensure the procedures are fair and democratic. A Foreign Ministry press release noted that Japan sent election monitors to Russia for the 1996 presidential election, as well as parliamentary contests in 1993, 1995, 1999, and 2007. Japanese Embassy diplomats also conducted monitoring activities for the 2000 presidential and 2003 Duma elections, according to the press release.  
SCHIEFFER